



SIoux COUNTY CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Sioux County Conservation Board

Spring 2009

Oak Grove Park, 4051 Cherry Ave., Hawarden, Iowa 51023

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Sustainable Funding

Sustainable Funding has recently passed both the House and Senate, and is to be on the ballot in November 2010. The Funding would be a ***3/8 of one percent sales tax increase and would begin with the next Iowa legislature approved sales tax increase. A non vote on the ballot counts as a no vote.*** The sustainable funding is to secure funding for natural resources across Iowa which ***includes: cleaner water, soil conservation, positive economic impacts, and to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities*** close to home where Iowans can enjoy and appreciate healthy activities, nature and the beauty of Iowa. In 2007 an Interim Study committee was appointed by the legislative council to evaluate reports, data and funding recommendations to address Iowa's need for today, tomorrow and future. This group made recommendations of what was needed which includes: establishing a constitutionally protected trust fund, acknowledge that a conservative estimate of \$150 million is needed for natural resources and an agreement that the preferred funding mechanism is 3/8 of one percent sales tax increase.

In 2008 and 2009 more than 90 percent of Iowa's state Legislatures voted creating the constitutionally protected Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. This was the first step. Now this matter is being put before the citizens of Iowa on the ballot for November 2010 election. Funding would begin the next time the Iowa legislature approves a sales tax increase. All Iowans can benefit from this investment as the quality of our natural resources affect us all. This investment is about the air we breathe, the water we drink and play in, and the soil we depend on for our food. The ***environmental benefits include: cleaner water, soil conservation, more wildlife and fish, more natural areas that preserve beauty and diversity, improved parks, trails and cultural facilities.*** Economic benefits are an increase in Iowa's current \$1B/year outdoor recreation industry, attract/retain businesses and jobs, enhanced environmental opportunities improving quality of life necessities, opportunities to leverage grants/donations, and enhanced flood protection.

Summer Camps at Oak Grove Park

Join the Sioux County Naturalist this summer for outdoor adventures and fun! Sign your child up starting **Monday, April 6th 2009 at 8am by calling 712/552-3057**. All camps are free of charge. **Pre-registration is required.** Space is limited.

Ages 3 – 4

Budding Naturalist

These little naturalists will have a hands-on introduction to nature. Parents/adults must attend. Includes games, crafts, and trail hikes.

Choose from 3 sections:

June 11th 8:30am-11am or 1pm-3:30pm

July 21st 8:30am-11am

Ages 5-6

Animal Detectives

Kids will investigate animal clues in the wild. This camp includes hands-on activities, games and fun!

Choose from five dates:

June 9-10th 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm (Full)

June 16-17th 9am -12pm (Full)

July 28-29th 9am-12pm

Ages 7-9

Camp Full

How Nature Works

We'll transform the Oak Grove Lodge into our own nature laboratory, as we do a variety of nature experiments. We'll spend time on the trails, play games, and explore...Hands-on!

Choose from two sets of dates:

June 24-25th 9am-2pm

July 8-9th 9am-2pm

July 30-31 9am-2pm

Age 10-12

Camp Full

Wilderness Survival

Learn how to make a shelter, tie knots, make a campfire, among others at this camp!

July 22-23rd 9am-3pm

CLIP AND SAVE

Things to send with your child to camp:

All Groups:

- Backpack
- Water bottle
- Raincoat or large trash bag with hole cut in top
- Must wear sturdy shoes- no open toe
- Dress for the weather
- Emergency contact information

Age 3-4 Budding Naturalist and Age 5-6

Animal Detectives:

- 1 snack
- Please apply sunscreen and bug spray prior to arrival.

Age 7-9- How Nature Works

- 1 snack
- 1 sack lunch
- Bug spray and Sunscreen

Age 10-12- Wilderness Survival

- 1 snack for each morning and afternoon break
- 1 Sack lunch
- Bug spray and Sunscreen



Programs at a Glance

*Tentative Dates

April

*11-Birding club South Pit, Hawarden

May

*9-Birding Club, Union Grove State Park, South Dakota

June

5,6,7-Iowa Resident free fishing weekend

6- Fishing Clinic at Dunlop Pit, Orange City

9-10-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 5-6

10-12- Outdoor Journey, Guthrie Center, IA

11-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 3-4

*13?-Public Fishing Clinic Sandy Hollow

16-17-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 5-6

*17?-Pheasant Forever Youth Banquet

24-25-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 7-9

24-26-Hunting & Conservation Camp, Guthrie Center, IA

July

8-9-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 7-9

*11-Birding Club canoe trip Big Sioux River

13, 14, 15-Visit us at the Sioux County Youth Fair

21-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 3-4

22-23-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 10-12

28-29-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 5-6

29-31-Hunting & Conservation Camp, Guthrie Center, IA

30-31-Summer Camp Oak Grove, ages 5-6

August

5-7-Outdoor Journey, Guthrie Center, IA

Pheasants Forever Youth Banquet

The Sioux Prairie Pheasant's Forever Chapter is busy planning a youth banquet for June at the Rock Valley Gun Club. Ages 9 through 16 are welcome, and the registration fee is \$5. The night will include trap shooting (with BB gun shooting for the younger kids); games and raffles; door prizes; educational sessions; pizza; and a live auction. Free "rooster bucks" will be handed out at the door for playing games, raffles, and auction. Parents are welcome, but must also pre-register with a \$5 fee. Many kids prizes may be won. Please call Sunday Ford at 712/552-3057 to pre-register. This event is not a fundraiser, but an opportunity for kids to enjoy the outdoors. Watch for more information in the newspapers.

Fishing Clinic Dunlop Pit

Will be held by Orange City Rec. Department and Sioux County Conservation Board. For more information contact Sunday Ford at 712-552-3057

Sioux County Birding Club

If you're seeking an outdoor experience that includes birding, nature viewing, and friends this is the Sioux County Birding Club is for you! We meet once a month on a Saturday morning and explore prime birding areas. All are welcome, including families. 2009 tentative meetings are: April 11 South Pit, Hawarden; May 9 Union Grove State Park in South Dakota; July 11 possible canoe trip on Big Sioux River; Sept. 12 Dunlop pond and Alton Roadside by Alton; Oct 10 Oak Grove Park near Hawarden; Dec 5 Christmas party at club member residence. All outings are at 8am, at no cost. To get on the emailing list or for more information contact Sunday Ford at 712/552-3057.

Local Pheasants Forever Group Sends Boys and Girls to camp

The Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever Chapter is sponsoring boys and girls ages 12-15 to an outdoor skills camp. The camps, which are 3 days, will be held at Iowa DNR Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center, IA. The camps are instructed by professionals in the conservation field, and cost is \$100 per person, which will be paid for by Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever Chapter.

Hunting and Conservation Camp for Boys will be held June 24-26 and July 29-31, 2009. Some courses include Wildlife Conservation, Dog Training and Selection, .22 Rifle Shooting, Pheasant Hunting, Muzzleloading, Archery, Shotgun Shooting, Furharvesting, Waterfowl Hunting, Game Care and Handling, Gun Cleaning, and Turkey Hunting.

Outdoor Journey for Girls is June 10-12 or August 5-7, 2009. Some classes include Orienteering, Survival/Shelter Building, Canoe/Water Safety, Tenting/Camping, Muzzleloading, Furharvesting, Fishing and the DNR Hunter Education course. Girls will be given the opportunity to pass the course and receive their Iowa Hunter Education Certification, which is needed to obtain a hunting license in Iowa. Pre-register early, spots fill fast. Sunday Ford 712/552-3057.

Sandy Hollow Fishing Clinic

This event is sponsored by the Sioux Center Wal Mart, Sioux County Sportsmen's club, and Sioux County Conservation Board. Come join us for a fun fill day of fishing. To pre-register for this event please call 712/552-3057. Watch newspapers for further information. This is the tentative date.



New Cabins

Oak Grove has 2 new cabins available for reservation this year. These cabins are located off of Deer Run Camp ground. These cabins have electricity, heat and AC, sinks with hot and cold running water, shower, toilet, microwave, small refrigerator, and a bar style kitchen; they have a queen bed, couch/bed and recliner/bed. Both the Bluegill Bungalow and Fox Den are wheelchair accessible and have a deck. These cabins are available after May 1 and close for the season November 1. Each cabin has a fire ring with grill and picnic tables. These cabins are \$65 a night with a two night minimum.

Eagle's Nest and Whitetail Lodge are located just uphill of the Big Sioux River. Available for reservation April 15 (weather permitting) through November 1. The cabins are one room and have a full bathroom with a deck and are accessible by wheelchair. Each cabin contains two bunk beds. Cabins include electricity, heat and AC, sink with hot and cold running water, shower, toilet microwave, refrigerator, and a table. These are available for two consecutive night reservation and are \$55 a night.

SCCB Rates and Fees 2009

Electrical sites- \$16

Non-electrical sites- \$13

Oak Grove Lodge rental-\$75

Big Sioux Shelter rental- \$25

Cabins-Eagle's Nest & Whitetail Lodge, 2-night minimum-\$55 a night

Cabins-Bluegill Bungalow & Fox Den, 2-night minimum- \$65 a night

Canoes (4 available) - \$18 a day or \$10 half day per canoe

Picnic shelters by river free on first-come first served basis

South Pit Update

Big Sioux Recreational Area

By Robert Klocke

The Sioux County Conservation Board, Board of Supervisors, and City of Hawarden are still pursuing obtaining the South Pit Area from L. G. Everist for public use. It sounds like we are getting fairly close on having an agreement all parties can agree to. To start with, this area will be opened to the public for fishing, hunting, boating (no wake), hiking, picnicking, and wildlife observation. Eventually, the board would like to add camping, swimming area, and cabin rentals. We realize this all takes time and funding.

The Board has started passing Rules and Regulations for this area as well as user fees and hours of operation. All Sioux County Conservation Board Rules apply as well as State of Iowa Regulations. The User fee will be \$20 dollars for an annual pass per vehicle and \$5 dollars per day for a day pass. These funds will go towards future development projects. This area will be open during the daylight hours from May to September 8am – 10pm and sunrise to sunset the remainder of the year, whichever comes first. We are asking that you will be flexible with us the first year to see what works and what does not.

We are extremely excited to see this all come together and want to thank you all for all your support county wide for this project. We look forward to visiting with you about this area as the project goes forward.

Naturalist Niche

Environmental education programs have been keeping me hopping this winter. My favorite have been the ice fishing clinics for the public and with the schools. The SCCB has about 30 ice fishing rods and a bunch of skimmers, as well as a gas auger, so I offer the program to classrooms that would like a new adventure in the winter. It is my opinion that any kid growing up in Iowa should at least have *tried* ice fishing since we live in one of the best areas to do this. We are lucky to have so many teachers that see the value in making a connection between their students and the outdoors. The schools that participated this winter were 5th grades at Boyden Elementary; Alton Middle School; Sioux Center Middle School; and Sioux Center Christian 6th grade. I also held a public ice fishing clinic at Fairview Pond, with about 30 people in attendance, and we had a wonderful day for it.



On another note, a Youth County Conservation Board has been started in Sioux County. This panel of 5 teens will assist local conservation groups such as Pheasants Forever, Sioux County Sportsmen's Club, and National Wild Turkey Federation in planning our many kids' events throughout the year. It is my feeling that we need kid input and ideas to run our events smoothly. These teens will also help with conservation organization banquets, involving the next generation in all the good that these clubs do for conservation in Sioux County.

New Website Coming Soon...

The Sioux County Conservation Board will soon have a new website at www.siouxcountyparks.com. We will feature wildlife areas and recreational opportunities, environmental education programs, rentals of cabins, canoes, and shelters, campground information, and newsletters. Reservations for the above will still be taken by phone at 712/552-1047.

You may also want to visit www.mycountyparks.com. This website will contain information on Iowa's 99 county conservation boards. It will include wildlife areas, things to do in each county, reservations, camping, and much more.